Overseer, would of course have to be appointed under the Director. The present policy of merging the land-revenue with the general revenue and allotting a nominal amount from the latter in the General Budget for irrigation works should be discontinued, and a fair percentage of the total land-revenue should be set apart in the Budget for the above purpose every year and expended in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

In conclusion, the Member requested that the matters mentioned by him might receive the early and sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

6. The necessity for changing the policy of the Government in regard to the registry of Puthuvals.

Mr. Ebrahim Sait Joosa Sait (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) observed that the recent orders of Government in the matter of the registry of waste lands were causing very great hardship to the people of the State. The Member was not prepared to say that it was wrong policy to raise the rate of *tharavila* proportionately to the rise in the price of land caused by the growth of population. But lands were being freely registered to non-Travancoreans, and in doing so, the claims and rights of the subjects of the State were not receiving due consideration. A continuance of such a policy did not present a bright outlook for the future and that was causing much fear and anxiety in the minds of the people. At present, in the place of the fixed rate of *tharavila*, minimum rates were fixed, and the discretion to fix the *tharavila* in individual cases was given to the Dewan Peishkar and the Tahsildar. In the present condition of the work which was expected of a Tahsildar, the power was really exercised by the lower Revenue subordinates such as the Proverthicar and Proverthy Accountant, and, in their hands, it acted as a weapon of considerable mischief. It was enough to say that the ryot, in many instances, paid as *tharavila* much more than the price which the lands would fetch. He requested therefore that a fixed *tharavila* should be prescribed in the case of the subjects of the State and that the same should be recovered in six or seven yearly instalments. He also suggested that the power to dispose of *puthuval* cases should be vested in the Tahsildars as in British India. Lastly, the Member said that there were extensive areas suitable for paddy cultivation inside the Reserves, without any tree-growth thereon. He requested that such areas should be registered in the names of the ryots.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

7. Grievances of the agricultural ryots of the Peermade taluk and suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. R. Krishna Panicker (Member, Peermade taluk) dwelt at length on the difficulties of *cherikal* cultivation and said that, unlike other wet lands, any profit could be had from them only once in six years or so. Prior to the G. O. of the 10th Meenom 1082 on the settlement of *cherikals*, only *malavaram* or *vilameladi* tax was recovered by the Government from those lands. The recent orders of the Government suddenly enhancing the tax, *tharavila* &c., on the *puthuval* –*cherikal* lands in the taluk operated as a serious obstacle to the extension of cultivation by the natives of the State. The ryots were not only not able to go in for new lands, but they were also unable to retain the lands in their possession, paying the heavy assessment. Already large areas had been registered to foreigners, and with the high *tharavila* of Rs. 25 and assessment of 15 fanams per acre, the ryots of the State had necessarily to draw back in the keen competition for lands. In view to avoid a crisis in the future, the Member submitted the following suggestions for consideration:—

(1) The Government should not prohibit *cherikal* cultivation but should encourage it and afford facilities therefor.

(2) The *tharavila* should be so regulated as not to exceed three times the assessment in any case.

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